



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

The purpose of this email is to provide useful information that will assist you and your community in the event of weather related events from Tropical Depression Ernesto. Please share this information with members of your community, family and friends.

The National Weather Service has issued a flash flood watch for Fairfax County and most of the metropolitan region beginning Thursday afternoon, August 31, due to the potential for flooding from the remnants of Tropical Depression Ernesto. Rainfall amounts ranging between 5 and 10 inches are possible, with the bulk of the rain falling early Friday morning to late Friday evening. Flash and coastal flood watches do not mean flooding is imminent, but that conditions could be favorable for flooding. The press release, "Fairfax County Encourages Residents to Prepare for Potential Impact of Tropical Depression Ernesto," is available on the following county website at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/ernesto.htm

The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management offers detailed information on preparedness. The agency provides information on how to create evacuation plans and procedures before disaster strikes including tools on how to develop these plans and procedures. They also provide families information for learning about school emergency procedures and assist with how to develop an emergency communication plan. This information addresses whether to consider evacuating your neighborhood or confining yourself to your home and may be found on the following county website at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/preparedness.htm.

Hopefully this information has given you a head start in preparing for any potential emergency during this flash flood watch. The last piece of information at the end of my email is a list of safety tips and pertinent emergency phone numbers. Please feel free to call my office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711 or via email to provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov during the regular working hours of 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. You can also leave us a message at anytime and my office will work to resolve your concerns as soon as possible. Also, please visit my website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence where this information will be posted.

Wishing you a safe Labor Day weekend,
Linda Q. Smyth
Providence District Supervisor

OFFICE OF THE PROVIDENCE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
LINDA Q. SMYTH

8739 Lee Highway
Fairfax, Virginia 22031
Phone: 703-560-6946, TTY 711 Fax: 703-207-3541
Email: provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence

Types of Problems	Telephone Numbers
For live threatening emergencies, such as flooding due to a major storm events	Call 911
If flooding involves a house, other building or property, please call the Maintenance & Stormwater Management Division	703-934-2800, TTY 711
If flooding involves a sanitary sewer, please call the Wastewater Collection Division	703-323-1211, TTY 703-239-8498
If flooding involves a road, please call the Virginia Department of Transportation	703-383-8368, TTY 711
For power outage, please call Dominion Power	1-888-667-3000
For telephone land-line outage, please call Verizon 24-hours repair line	1-800-275-2355

Safety Tips

If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.

If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:

- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.

The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:

- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and pick-ups.